

OPERATING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE FORWARD OPERATING LOOATION AT THE ECUADORIAN AIR FORCE BASE IN MANTA - ECUADOR









OPERATING ARRANGEMENT FOR THE FORWARD OPERATING LOCATION AT THE ECUADORIAN AIR FORCE BASE IN MANTA, ECUADOR

1. PURPOSE. To regulate special aspects of Command and Control, Operations, Personnel, Security, Logistics, and Communications in accordance with Article XXI of the Agreement of Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Ecuador Concerning United States Access to and Use of Installations at the Ecuadorian Air Force Base in Manta for Counter-Narcotics Activities, effective November 17, 1999 (hereinafter "the Long-Term Forward Operating Location (FOL) Agreement"), in order to normalize procedures in these areas.

2. **DEFINITIONS. ANNEX 1**

3. CONCEPT OF OPERATION.

- a. The facilities that the Government of the Republic of Ecuador, through the Ecuadorian Air Force, has provided to the Government of the United States of America (USG), for the establishment of the FOL at Manta Air Base (AB), will be used for the sole and exclusive purpose of supporting aerial detection, monitoring, tracking, and control of illegal narcotics trafficking.
- b. FOL CAPABILITIES. The USSOUTHCOM concept of operations is a capability driven concept, based on the requirements tasked to the United States Department of Defense (DoD) and the Interagency for detection, monitoring, and tracking, and control of illegal narcotics trafficking. Annex 2 lists aircraft types that may be used in support of the mission at Manta AB.

4. COMMAND AND CONTROL.

- a. For the purpose of command, control, coordination, and administration of this operating arrangement, a commission, composed of the following members or their representatives, will be formed.
 - (1) Ecuadorian Air Force (FAE) members include:
 - (a) Commander of the "Air Combat Command"
 - (b) Commander of Manta AB
 - (c) Liaison Officer at Joint Interagency Task Force-East (JIATF-E)
 - (2) USG members include:
 - (a) Commander-in-Chief United States Southern Command (USCINCSO)
 - (b) United States Southern Command Air Forces (USSOUTHAF) Commander

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- (c) Director, JIATF-E
- (d) Commander, US Military Group-Ecuador
- (e) Manta FOL Manager
- b. The Manta AB Commander will be the senior authority at Manta Air Base.
- c. The U.S. Air Force (USAF) will assign a FOL manager who will execute its Executive Agency responsibility at the Ecuadorian Air Force Base in Manta. The FOL manager is the USG's military representative and serves as the FOL principal liaison with the host nation counterpart authority in cooperation with the American Ambassador and USCINCSO. The FOL manager will ensure that facilities, transportation, incidental support and housing are adequate to support operations, and will provide communications infrastructure to facilitate the use of intelligence, weather, mission tasking, flight following and reporting with JIATF-E, USSOUTHAF, and USSOUTHCOM. The FOL manager operates a FOL support cell, as required, to support operations, and its functions as the communications focal point. US personnel deployed to the FOL in connection with the Long-Term FOL Agreement remain under the command and control of USSOUTHCOM, their respective service, or Executive Branch department.
- d. The FAE will provide a qualified Ecuadorian Liaison Officer to JIATF-E who will assist in planning and coordinating air operations that use Manta AB FOL.
- 5. INTELLIGENCE. The FOL manager will coordinate with the Manta AB Commander to establish a facility to secure sensitive information and implement the procedures and methods for the protection of that information. Visits to the security facility may be arranged through the FOL manager.

6. OPERATIONS.

- a. Interdiction operations will be the exclusive responsibility of the FAE.
- b. In accordance with the Long-Term FOL Agreement, the following are procedures for entry and exit of Ecuadorian airspace:
- (1) JIATF-E will present the FAE (30 days in advance) a monthly schedule of such US aircraft.
- (2) The FOL manager will promptly inform the Manta AB Commander of all changes to the monthly schedule.
- (3) The FOL manager will inform the Manta AB Commander when such US aircraft depart Manta AB to return to their home station.





- c. Procedures for airborne operations at Manta AB:
- (1) US aircraft will comply with locally published procedures applicable to aircraft at Manta AB, particularly filing flight plans and arrival and departure procedures, and will operate in accordance with International Civil Aviation organization (ICAO) procedures. Upon entering Ecuadorian airspace, US aircraft will receive the same treatment as Ecuadorian military aircraft.
- (2) Under no circumstances will US aircraft be armed while performing missions covered under this agreement.
- d. In accordance with the Long-Term FOL Agreement, representatives of third countries will serve as aircraft riders on specified USG aircraft to facilitate the performance of aerial counter narcotics operations. Aircraft riders will utilize appropriate immigration procedures for entry into and exit from Ecuador as provided in the Long-Term FOL Agreement. The maximum number of aircraft rider personnel from each participating nation present in Ecuador at any one time will be five. A USG coordinator will accomplish routine requirements for billeting, transportation, flight scheduling, and escort. Aircraft riders will not be billeted on Manta AB. They will be authorized on Manta AB for mission purposes only and will be escorted by USG and/or FAE personnel. The USG will seek to ensure these same procedures and courtesies are applied to FAE personnel who are performing as aircraft riders in other participating countries.
- e. To the extent permitted by regulations and operational considerations, a member of the FAE (officer or airman familiar with the mission) will fly on board US aircraft. Mission results will be classified and shared between USG and FAE to the extent permitted by regulations.

7. PERSONNEL

- a. The FOL manager will notify the Manta AB Commander in writing, the next day after arrival, of the names of US personnel permanently assigned to Manta AB and their dependents, and will periodically notify the Manta AB Commander in writing of the total number of rotational US personnel present at Manta AB in connection with the Long-Term FOL Agreement.
- b. For operations at the Manta AB FOL, the maximum number of US personnel prior to completion of runway construction will be 200. Following completion of runway construction, normal operations will involve approximately 250-300 US personnel. With prior notification, this number may surge temporarily to a maximum of 475 personnel to meet operational counter narcotics requirements.
- c. The Manta AB Commander will help the FOL manager obtain mortuary services in the event of the death of US personnel.





- (I) The FOL manager will maintain control of the remains of US personnel and their personal articles. The Commander of Manta AB, in coordination with local authorities, will maintain control of the area and areas in and around the location of the death until the FOL manager ensures completion of required investigations.
- 8. TRAINING EQUIPMENT AND COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS. Both parties will work together to identify, prioritize, and develop requirements for training, equipment, and communications to support CD and FOL operations as soon as possible in accordance with established priorities.

9. AIRPORT SERVICES.

- a. FIRE PROTECTION/RESCUE SERVICES. Parties will provide manpower, vehicles, and equipment resources for joint firefighting and rescue services. This joint force, in connection with air and support operations at the airfield, will protect life and property from fire in structures and aircraft crash incidents, occurring at Manta AB. The Parties will follow the guidance in the Joint Emergency Response Procedures, as outlined in Annex 3 to this agreement, which addresses key concerns of joint emergency response. The joint response will be executed within a unified incident command structure.
- b. In the event of an accident involving USG aircraft, the Manta AB Commander and local authorities, with the presence and assistance of the FOL manager, will, in accordance with ICAO and FAE procedures, maintain control of the accident site until all investigations required under the laws of the Republic of Ecuador and the United States of America are concluded.
- c. The United States Government is authorized to provide air traffic control personnel during United States air operations.
- d. The Manta AB Commander and the chief of the airfield will cooperate with the FOL manager to achieve and maintain ICAO standards, and ensure safe operation of the airfield to include air traffic control, navigation aids, pavement sweeping, bird and debris control, and vegetation control.
- e. Airport services that the FOL manager considers necessary to implement or improve for US operations will be the financial responsibility of the USG. If required, the FOL manager may train personnel of the FAE/DAC to facilitate efficient joint Ecuadorian/US aircraft support operations at Manta AB.
- 10. SECURITY. The FAE will provide security support as specified in the Long-Term FOL Agreement and as requested by the FOL manager in coordination with the Manta AB Commander.





- a. The FOL manager will provide security forces and equipment required to meet United States-specific security requirements.
- b. FAE security personnel will provide support to the United States security personnel responding to security/other incidents that exceed the United States' initial response capability.
- c. Although FOL security personnel may be required to temporarily detain non-United States personnel involved in security incidents inside the FOL, against United States personnel, equipment, and/or facilities, FAE security personnel will assume custody of non-United States personnel upon termination of the security incident.
- d. The Parties agree to exchange appropriate threat information necessary to safeguard personnel, equipment, and operations of both Parties. The Parties' security posture will take into account the local threat reflected in such information.
- e. FOL permanent party and rotational personnel deployed for seven days or more will proceed to the Manta AB Intelligence Section for issuance of Manta AB photo identification badges. Personnel deployed for less than seven days need not proceed to the Manta AB Intelligence Section and will be granted access based on USG identification card and orders. Access for individuals deployed less than seven days, will be limited to operations facilities (including base operations and flightline via most direct routing). During periods of FOL construction, contract laborers must display Manta AB photo identification badges while on the installation of Manta AB. Upon contract award, the primary contractors' representative will coordinate badge issue for respective contract laborers with the Manta AB Intelligence Section. The USG will provide training, equipment, and material for this purpose.
- f. All FOL facilities, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 5, are not restricted for access by Ecuadorian personnel. However, access will be governed by internal security procedures set forth by agreement of the Manta AB Commander and the FOL manager.
- g. United States personnel will enter Manta AB through the same entrance used by members of the FAE and will respect applicable Manta AB regulations.
- h. USG personnel are authorized to carry weapons while on duty if authorized to do so by their orders, to satisfy the requirements of the security mission.

11. LOGISITICS.

a. The Manta AB Commander agrees to advise the FOL manager in obtaining, for the United States at Manta AB, all utilities and services including water, electricity, refuse disposal, phone, and sewage provided at the same rate charged to the FAE. The Manta AB Commander will maintain all utility lines to include electrical, water, phone, and sewage lines leading up to the facilities being used by the USG. The FOL manager will pay for utilities and services requested and received, in accordance with the Long-Term FOL Agreement.





- b. The Manta AB Commander agrees to make the following installations available to the USG (as shown in attached drawing, Annex 4):
 - (1) Building 234 (until permanent facilities are occupied)
 - (2) Detachment Headquarters (until permanent facilities are occupied)
- (3) Maintenance office and storage facility in East hangar (until permanent facilities are occupied)
 - (4) Enlisted Quarters and dining facility
 - (5) Base Officer Quarters
 - (6) Future Permanent FOL Complex

USG is authorized to construct new facilities, roads, and utilities, make improvements, modifications, and repairs, and remove structures, with prior authorization from the Ecuadorian Air Force. All construction, maintenance, and repair activities by USG will be exempt from construction permits.

- c. The parties will work together to ensure the streets and grounds of Manta AB are maintained in conditions that facilitate the execution of operations that are safe, secure and free of obstructions.
- d. As requested, the Manta AB Commander will make airport services at the Air Base available to the FOL. The United States shall pay reasonable charges for services requested and received.
- e. The Manta AB Commander agrees to make administrative and social services (including but not limited to, the exchange, commissary, recreation facilities, sports areas, officer and enlisted clubs, and health units) available to USG personnel and dependents under the same terms and conditions subject to the same constraints that apply to Ecuadorians.
- f. Ground fuel required by the USG may be obtained at the Manta AB at current market prices. Modifications to distribution and autoservice facilities required for USG operations, may be made by the USG at no cost to Ecuador.
- g. Once permanent FOL installations are completed and occupied by US personnel, temporary installations provided to the USG within Manta AB will be transferred to the FAE after due consultation between the Parties.

12. COMMUNICATIONS.

a. Guided by the terms of Article XX of the Long-Term FOL Access Agreement, the Commander of Manta AB shall permit the United States to utilize such means and services as required to assure full ability to communicate.





- b. The Commander of Manta AB will act as liaison to the national frequency manager as required to obtain permission to use new radio frequencies.
- c. The Commander of Manta AB will allow the USG forces to use existing utility poles to install communication lines.
- d. The Commander of Manta AB will allow the USG access to the intrabase telephone system on a non-interference basis.
- e. The air operations center will be upgraded with equipment the USG considers necessary to monitor military aircraft departing from Manta AB. This equipment will be shared by FAE personnel and used to follow the established procedures to notify COMAC, JIATF-E, Manta AB, and other pertinent organizations.
- f. Access to radio communications, television, and other via-satellite communications installed for recreational purposes will be provided to Manta AB installations without cost to the FAE.
- 13. MEDICAL. Without prejudice to already established agreements that may be in force, members of the USG and their dependents, will be able to receive medical attention at the Manta AB clinic in the specialties that may be available under the same terms as members of the FAE. The USG may improve facilities or provide medications as appropriate.
- 14. FUNDING. The obligations of the USG under this arrangement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds authorized for these purposes.
- 15. DURATION. This arrangement shall enter into force upon signature and remain in force for the duration of the Long-Term FOL Agreement. Revision or modification of this arrangement may be accomplished by mutual consent of the Parties.

COMMANDER AIR COMBAT COMMAND

> his Iturralde Cordova Licutement General

At:

Guayaguil-Ecuador

Date:

02 - June - 2000

U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND REPRESENTATIVE

James N. Soligan Major General

DIRECTOR SOME U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND

At: Guayaquil-Ecuador

Date: 02 - June - 2000





DEFINITIONS:

- 1. AB: Air Base
- 2. AEROTECNICO: Ecuadorian Air Force Airman
- 3. CD: Counter Drug Operations
- 4. COA: Air Operations Center
- 5. COMAC: Air Combat Command (Ecuador)
- COMDA: Air Defense Command (Ecuador)
- 7. DAC: Civil Aviation Directorate (Ecuador)
- 8. DoD: Department of Defense
- 9. FAE: Ecuadorian Air Force
- 10. FOL: Forward Operating Location
- 11. ICAO: International Civil Aviation Organization
- 12. JIATF-E: Joint Interagency Task Force East
- PONS: Normal operating procedures
- 14. RESTRICTED AREA: Area where special safety measures are applied to avoid the unauthorized access
- 15. SAR: Search and Air Rescue
- 16. USAF: United States Air Force
- 17. USCINCSO: Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Command of the United States
- 18. USG: United States Government
- 19. USSOUTHAF: United States Southern. Command Air Forces
- 20. USCS: US. Customs Service





TYPES OF AIRCRAFT

Prior to completion of runway construction, USG aircraft will be limited to three medium sized aircraft (such as USN/USCS P-3, ARL, C-130, and C-550). After completion of runway construction, USG aircraft operating from Manta AB will be limited to a maximum of four large aircraft (such as E-3, AWACS, and KC-135) and four medium size aircraft (such as USN, USCS P-3, E-2, ARL, C-130, ASP, and C-550). With the prior approval of the Manta AB Commander, USG aircraft may also operate from the three provisional spaces in use prior to completion of ramp construction for in transit overflow aircraft, aircraft swapout, and resupply. Airlift aircraft such as C-130, C-141, C-17, and C-5 will perform logistical resupply missions required.





JOINT EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES

- 1. PURPOSE. This annex outlines the general procedures used by the United States Government (USG) Detachment 7 and the Fuerza Aerea Ecuatoriana (hereinafter referred to as FAE) fire department and the Direction de Avacion Civil (DAC) fire department at the Eloy Alfaro International Airport/Manta Air Base (hereinafter referred to as Manta Air Base), during joint fire fighting and rescue operations. It pertains to incidents involving USG aircraft and property and incidents involving Ecuadorian Government assets or assets for which the Manta Air Base fire departments normally provide fire protection. It also addresses responsibilities and provides guidance to emergency responders.
- 2. RESPONSIBILITIES. Each of the three fire department agencies recognizes one cannot meet firefighting and rescue requirements for USG aircraft assets without the full assistance of the other. In order to provide safe and effective responses, each Party will maintain firefighting vehicles and equipment in serviceable condition and train and prepare their firefighters for emergency operations.
- 2.1. Training. This training must include aircraft crash live fire training not less than semi-annually. Additionally, the USG will make mission-assigned and transient aircraft and knowledgeable instructors available for training FAE and DAC firefighters. This aircraft familiarization and rescue training will be conducted not less than semi-annually per mission-assigned or transient aircraft. Joint training sessions will be conducted whenever possible.
- 2.2. Exercises. A major accident response exercise on a mission-assigned USG aircraft will be conducted at least once annually and should involve all joint emergency response agencies at Manta Air Base. The United States fire department, Detachment 7, will also support the Manta Air Base's annual accident response exercise.
- 2.3. Safety. When the situation dictates, the Detachment 7 senior fire official will appoint a fire ground safety officer if one has not been appointed, regardless of the identity of the lead incident commander. The safety officer has the authority to alter, suspend, or terminate those activities deemed unsafe.

3. PROCEDURES.

- 3.1. Incident Command. A unified incident command structure will be established and used for all joint emergency operations. This command structure will consist of a senior fire official from each of the three fire departments.
- 3.1.1. For incidents involving USG aircraft or property, the Detachment 7 senior fire official will be the lead incident commander. This individual will direct all fire and rescue operations and may direct FAE and DAC firefighters. All instructions to FAE and DAC firefighters must flow through the appropriate FAE or DAC senior fire official and have his concurrence before execution of orders.





- 3.1.2. During incidents involving Ecuadorian Government assets or assets for which the FAE and DAC fire departments normally provide fire protection, the appropriate senior fire official will be the lead incident commander. This individual will direct all fire and rescue operations and may direct Detachment 7 firefighters. All instructions to the United States firefighters must flow through the Detachment 7 senior fire official and have his concurrence before execution of orders.
- 3.2. Emergency Notifications (Aircraft). The Air Traffic Control Tower will notify each of the three fire departments by VHF radio, internal base phone network, or cellular phones. The tower will provide information on the:
- 3.2.1. Type of plane

- 3.2.2. Nature of emergency
- 3.2.3. Number of people on board
- 3.2.4. Fuel load and special hazards
- 3.2.5. Runway to be used
- 3.2.6. Estimated arrival time
- 3.3. Aircraft In-flight Emergencies. Each fire department will dispatch units to their standby locations and follow directions of the lead incident commander. Unless redirected by the lead incident commander, responding units will pre-position according to the local standard operating procedures for pre-announced emergencies. On touch down of the emergency aircraft, all fire units will proceed to the aircraft and set up according to pre-fire plans and local standard operating procedures for the specific aircraft. The lead incident commander may redirect firefighting and rescue vehicles, as dictated by the situation. The lead incident commander will initiate the response of additional emergency, recovery, medical, or support forces, as dictated by the situation.
- 3.4. Ground Emergencies. These are aircraft-related emergencies, which include incidents resulting from maintenance activities, hot brake situations, fire on aircraft ground servicing equipment, and fuel and other hazardous materials spills. Each fire department will dispatch their units to the incident site, and perform firefighting and rescue operations in accordance with local standard operating procedures for the specific incident. The lead incident commander may redirect firefighting and rescue vehicles, as dictated by the situation. The lead incident commander will initiate the response of additional emergency, recovery, medical, or support forces, as dictated by the situation.
- 3.5. On-Installation Aircraft Crashes. Each fire department will dispatch its units to the incident site and perform firefighting and rescue operations under the direction of the lead incident commander, in accordance with pre-fire plans and local standard operating procedures for the specific aircraft. The lead incident commander may redirect firefighting and rescue vehicles, as dictated by the situation. The lead incident commander will initiate the response of additional emergency, recovery, medical, or support forces, as dictated by the situation.





- 3.6. Vehicle Movements. Emergency vehicle movements on the airfield controlled movement area will be coordinated with the air traffic control tower via portable radio or cellular phone.
- 3.7. Off-Installation Aircraft Crashes. The Detachment 7 fire department will only respond to off-installation aircraft crashes involving USG aircraft, unless the Manta Air Base authorities request support of crash incidents involving assets under their jurisdiction. All responses will be executed using the guidelines found in the host nation's "Eloy Alfaro" Manta Emergency Plan.
- 3.7.1. Detachment 7 Responses to off-installation emergencies must be approved by the Detachment 7 Commander and coordinated with the airfield tower.
- 3.7.2. The responding Manta Air Base FAE and DAC firefighters will take the lead in locating the crash site and guiding the joint emergency firefighting and rescue task force to the incident site.
- 3.7.3. Local fire departments will have jurisdiction at off-installation incidents. However, the USG will maintain control of USG assets and the Detachment 7 senior fire official must assume the lead incident command role as soon as practical. The guidelines of host-nation off-base response procedures outlined in the "Eloy Alfaro" Manta Emergency Plan will be followed.
- 3.7.4. The lead incident commander will initiate the response of additional emergency, recovery, medical, or support forces, as dictated by the situation.
- 3.8. Real Property Incidents. These are incidents involving fixed structures and real property other than aircraft or aircraft-related support equipment. Firefighting operations will be primarily defensive in nature, when structures are involved. Structural firefighting vehicles are not available. Each fire department will dispatch their units to the incident site and perform firefighting and rescue operations under the direction of the lead incident commander, in accordance with pre-fire plans and local standard operating procedures. At the discretion of the lead incident commander, limited offensive firefighting operations may be directed. The lead incident commander will initiate the response of additional emergency, recovery, medical, or support forces as dictated by the situation.
- 3.9. Rescue Responses. The Detachment 7 fire department will provide a dedicated rescue team, within the joint emergency response structure. The team's primary mission is aircrew rescue. The team will also support host-nation aircraft emergencies, emergency medical responses, and be available for other basic rescue services, such as car accidents. Firefighters will perform first-aid emergency medical care within the legal limits of their training.
- 3.10. Firefighting Capability Notifications. The senior fire officials of the three fire departments will exchange vehicle capability and manning information on a daily basis.





